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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

TOPIC Soviet MGB Units in Land Saxony

EVALUATION see below PLACE OBTAINED 25X1A

DATE OF CONTENT 25X1A

DATE OBTAINED 17 September 1951

REFERENCES 25X1A

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

DO NOT CIRCULATE

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- At the beginning of August 1951, the detraining of soldiers, the evacuation of some blocks of buildings and the construction of target ranges was observed in Auerbach (N 51/K 32). AA guns were emplaced in the Burekhardt Woods north of Lauter (N 51/K 52) on the hills between the Schwarzwasser Brook and Schwarzwasser, at Oberpfannenstiel (N 51/K 53), and in the Breitenhoff Forest between Johannegeorgenstadt (N 51/K 51) and Breitenbrunn.

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- On 7 August, about 120 Soviet soldiers wearing black-bordered red epaulets and red-bordered black epaulets were engaged in record firing at the target range at Annaberg (N 51/K 73). About 50 officers and 950 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets and black-bordered red epaulets went to the indoor swimming pool in Annaberg in the afternoon of the same day. About 650 troops wearing the same types of epaulets went swimming on 18 August. Shortly before, the approach roads to the swimming pool were blocked by traffic MPs with red flags.
- About 430 soldiers, wearing black-bordered red epaulets from the barracks installation at Annaberg-Frohnau, practiced close combat and the throwing of hand grenades on Schreckenbergl (hill) near Frohnau on 16 August.
- About 450 to 500 soldiers wearing black-bordered red epaulets from the Mehnert Kaserne were practicing attack and defense at Foehlberg (hill) on 13 August. Troops from radio and telephone units participated and dogs were used. It was again observed that the dogs carried loads, some of them were tied in pairs and they approached targets marked by signal flares. On 17 August, about 390 troops led by 10 officers left the Mehnert Kaserne toward Joehstad (N 51/K 72). The majority of the troops wore black-bordered red epaulets, but about 35 men wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. The latter soldiers were mixed with the other troops. Vehicles parked in front of the Mehnert Kaserne on 13 August included trucks the latter driven by a soldier who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia.

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- Sedan driven by a soldier wearing red-bordered black epaulets, and truck were observed at the boys' school on 13 and 17 August respectively. (1)

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Document No. 1

No Change in Class. ☐

☐ Declassified

Class. Changed To: TS S

Auth: HR 70-2 By: 033

Date: 11 5 82

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6. About 300 troops were observed drilling in the Artillerie Kaserne on Leninstrasse, Chomnitz (N 51/K 66), on 16 August. The installation was occupied to capacity. Besides soldiers wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets, individual soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets were noticed. (2) Vehicles identified there included truck [REDACTED], driven by a soldier with red-bordered black epaulets; truck [REDACTED] driven by a soldier with black-bordered red epaulets; and tank trucks [REDACTED]

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7. The occupation of the Luftkriegsschule and the Bucher Kaserne in Dresden had not changed during the period from 1 to 21 August.

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8. Many officers wearing green service color were observed in one building of the military post hospital on the north side of Max Liebermannstrasse in Leipzig (N 52/E 21) between 11 and 19 August. (3)

9. The Treitschke Kaserne still seemed to quarter about 400 troops wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets and maintaining a dog kennel. Sedans [REDACTED] and truck [REDACTED] were identified. (4)

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10. At the end of July, it was observed that all the rooms of the Kutscher Factory in Schwarzenberg (N 51/K 52), including classrooms, were being equipped with new double-deck bedsteads. However, only about 500 troops seemed to be quartered there at the beginning of August. The troops were observed practicing with heavy machine guns mounted on hand-drawn carts (5)

11. A new barracks installation has been built in the large settlement at Raschau (N 51/K 62), on the Poehla-Rittersgruen road. The company barracks, previously reported, is located opposite the new installation, which housed a motor pool. An undetermined number of Soviet soldiers recently arrived as replacements for German drivers were assigned to this motor pool. Their vehicles also have [REDACTED] but the vehicles with [REDACTED] previously driven by Germans, were transferred to a new garage on the road leading from Schwarzenberg to the Erla railroad station, about 500 meters before the railroad station. [REDACTED] this road was not entered on commercial maps. Motor vehicles with [REDACTED] were marked by a white star on their doors when operated by Soviet drivers. (6)

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12. There were no changes of the AA gun emplacements or of company barracks in Johanngeorgenstadt up to the beginning of August. A barracks installation, occupied by about one regiment, was located on Eibenstockerstrasse in the highest part of the town. Troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets and equivalent to about one regiment were also quartered in the Heinze office furniture factory. Another barracks installation of four stories was located beyond the Lorenz Mine, in a line from Eibenstockerstrasse toward the railroad station, east of the AA gun emplacement. (7)

13. Further new barracks installations, on which details are not available, were noticed in the wooded area around Johanngeorgenstadt and within the new settlement areas.

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Comments.

- (1) The number of troops in Annaberg does not seem to have changed since July 1951. The troops with black-bordered red epaulets are still believed to have been MGB personnel. Vehicle [REDACTED] is assigned to the MGB units stationed in Annaberg.
- (2) The barracks installation quarters an MGB battalion which is confirmed until August 1951.
- (3) The significance of the continued use of the green service color after the change of service color, which was observed with the MGB troops, has not been determined.

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- (4) The Treitschke Kaserne is the billeting area bounded by Olbrichtstrasse, Viertelweg and Witzlebenstrasse. It and the northwestern section of the Planitz Kaserne, which borders on the Treitschke Kaserne to the south, quarter MGB troops who were estimated at 1,000 to 1,200 men in March 1951. The MGB troops there in and after June 1951 have been estimated at only 400 to 500 men, or about one battalion.
- (5) The occupation of the barracks installation does not seem to have changed. The headquarters of an MGB regiment is carried there. 25X1A
- 25X1C (6) The company barracks was mentioned in a previous report. See [REDACTED] The vehicle [REDACTED] is reported for the first time.
- 25X1C (7) [REDACTED] vehicles stationed in the barracks installation on Eibenstockerstrasse will be reported by source subsequently. The installation quartered two labor companies in April 1951. The estimate of one regiment each in the barracks installation on Eibenstockerstrasse and in the Heinze Factory, as stated in the present report, appears too high. Each installation is probably quartering one Soviet labor battalion assigned to work in the mines.

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